

BACKGROUND

3 November 1959

BELGIAN CONGO

- I. Area: 904,757 square miles--over three times the size of Texas.
- II. Population: About 13,000,000, including about 100,000 Europeans.
- III. Economy: About 75 percent of population engaged in farming. Congo is rich in minerals, however, notably cobalt, diamonds and copper. Uranium production is no longer commercially important and this year for the first time Brussels is being forced to underwrite a deficit in the Congo budget.
- IV. Government: As a Belgian colony, the Congo is administered by a governor-general (Hendrick Cornelis). Policies are determined by Belgian government, which includes a minister of the Congo (Auguste de Schrijver). There is no Congo legislature.

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